



Massachusetts Parole Board News

September, 2006

The first legislation in the United States authorizing parole was enacted in Massachusetts in 1837. The duties of the first parole officers included helping prisoners find jobs and providing them with tools, clothing, and transportation at state expense. Although in the past 175 years there have been numerous legislative changes affecting parole in Massachusetts, our core mission and objective remain essentially the same.

Today, the Massachusetts Parole Board is an agency within the Executive Office of Public Safety. We have the primary responsibility of identifying those parole eligible offenders for whom there is sufficient indication that confinement has served its purpose, setting appropriate conditions for parole, and enhancing public safety through the responsible reintegration of these individuals into the community.

Massachusetts Parole Board Executive Office of Public Safety



MA. Sheriffs Honor Chairman Walsh for Excellence in Public Service

BY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR DONALD V.
GIANCIOPPO

On Saturday, September 30, the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association held their annual dinner. That night, Chairman Maureen Walsh was presented with the **Sheriff Clifford H. Marshall Public Service Award**.

This award recognizes outstanding dedication and commitment to public service. The late Clifford Marshall was the Sheriff of Norfolk County for many years and was a leader in corrections innovation, was a man of integrity and commitment, and serves as a model for public service.

Ironically, Sheriff Marshall was a mentor to Chairman Walsh's current supervisor, Undersecretary of Public Safety Patrick



Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti recognized Chairman Maureen Walsh with the Clifford H. Marshall Public Service Award at the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association annual dinner this month, and presented her this plaque commending her "outstanding dedication and commitment to public service."

Bradley, who was in attendance and thrilled that Maureen received this award. As noted by U/S Bradley, "Sheriff

Marshall was a pioneer in the field and a man of passion, loyalty, and selfless dedication. He represented the best in public service and I can't express how much it means to me that Maureen is a recipient of this award."

As we are all aware, Chairman Walsh embodies these same qualities, as recognized by the Sheriffs of Massachusetts, and we are fortunate to have her as our Chairman and grateful for her service to the Commonwealth.

Parole Expands Scope to Provide More Support to Victims

Meeting with victims face-to-face and providing them with referrals to counseling and community support has expanded the scope of the Massachusetts Parole Board Victim Services Unit in the past year and a half, providing victims with a stronger sense of support from parole staff.

The Victim Services Unit has

more than doubled in size since March, 2005, when four new Victim Service Coordinators were hired, bringing the total number of coordinators to eight. Since then, an additional coordinator and administrative assistant have joined the unit's central office staff, and the agency seeks to hire another coordinator within the next few months. The administrative and

managerial arm of the victims unit works at the agency's central office in Natick, and consists of Director Thomas Clark,

Assistant Director Janice Dean, Victim Services Coordinator Erin Farrell, and Word Processing Operator Karen Kelly.

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Chairman's Column

By Parole Board Chairman Maureen E. Walsh

I want to take this opportunity to speak about the importance of employment in our efforts to successfully reenter offenders back into the community.

As we all know, for all of us, having stable employment is one of the key factors to success in the community. The same rule applies equally, if not more, to offenders recently released from our jails and prisons. Upon release, most offenders must deal with a myriad of issues and challenges, from addressing mental health and substance abuse to fulfilling housing needs. If unable to find employment in a legitimate job, it is unlikely that an ex-offender will be able to overcome many of the factors that led to criminal behavior in the first place.

Having a job not only puts food on the table and allows ex-offenders to pay bills, it provides self esteem and a sense of contribution and worth that is vital to reentry.

At parole, we continually see the issue of employment as one of the biggest barriers to offender success and public safety in the community. As criminal justice professionals, we know what will likely happen if an ex-offender is unable to obtain employment for any length of time—public safety will be jeopardized. In fact, according to Bureau of Justice statistics, 31 percent of state prisoners reported that they were un-

employed in the month prior to their arrest.

During the month of September, the Massachusetts Parole Board was the proud co-sponsor of a collaborative effort in Boston to conduct a job fair for ex-offenders. The contributions by Parole were many, but David Sullivan, the Parole Board Director of Reemployment, led the charge. He spent countless hours and dedicated time and resources to make this event successful. Prior to the job fair, he reached out to potential employees and provided advice and counsel on topics such as resume writing, proper attire, and how to address the issue of prior incarceration.

All of the Parole Board members and I attended the job fair and we were both impressed and inspired by the outcome. Several employers, including Starbucks, Costco, and a local labor union were present and accepting the applications of formerly incarcerated offenders. A total of 15 employers were present and interested in considering employment for ex-offender with their company. The number of people looking for a job was equally impressive. In fact, at many points during the day, the line to enter the room was around the corner and down the hall.

The Parole Board members would like to thank all of our partners from other agencies and especially



thank David Sullivan and the Reentry unit of the Massachusetts Parole Board for a job well done. As most of you know, it has been a long time since Parole has been at the table and been involved in many of these opportunities. We are grateful for your dedication and commitment. I am looking forward to hearing some of the success stories of those who became employed as a result of your hard work!

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-Parole Board
Chairman
Maureen E.
Walsh

Parole Staff to be Trained on Handling Cases Involving Domestic Violence

The Massachusetts Parole Board will hold a domestic violence training for parole officers and staff next month.

The training will be presented by DOVE, Inc. [Domestic Violence Ended], a nonprofit organization created by the Violence Against Women Task Force of the Quincy Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women in 1978. The task force determined that a central

agency was needed to provide services to abused women and their families after looking into the quality of resources available to victims of domestic violence.

DOVE offers trainings on topics such as dating violence, domestic violence awareness for service providers, domestic violence in healthcare settings, domestic violence in the workplace, and teen dating violence.

DOVE's key services include three 24-hour hotlines: a domestic violence hotline at 617-471-1234, a youth hotline at 1-617-773-HURT, a toll-free hotline at 1-888-314-3683. DOVE also runs an emergency shelter which can house up to 18 women and children at a time. Parole staff who would like to attend the training should contact Paul Gallagher at 508-650-4540.

Transitional Parole Officer Gerry Lockhart Retires After 21 Years of Service

Known for writing thorough case reports, Gerry Lockhart retired from her post as a Transitional Parole Officer [TPO] at Middlesex County House of Correction on August 29. Her retirement comes after 21 years of service for the Massachusetts Parole Board, the majority of which she spent working at Middlesex House of Correction, located in Billerica.

Parole's six-member team in Billerica includes Institutional Parole Officer Olympia Frazier, Word Processing Operator Celine Yee, and TPO's Rashida

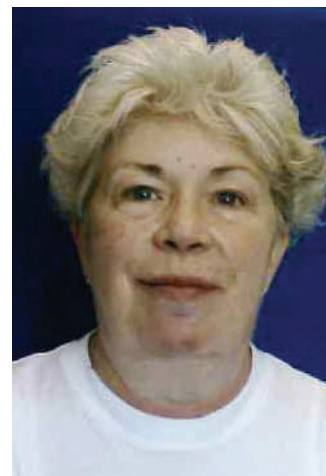
Siyar, Aline Brouillette, and Carl Caruso. Gerry's TPO position has yet to be filled. "We hope to get her replaced since this is a busy institution....I don't know how long it will take," said Ms. Frazier.

Despite the length of her tenure at the institution, Gerry did not want any fanfare upon her departure. "She didn't want a party," said Ms. Frazier. "She was very private in that respect." Gerry has a unique, feisty personality, and she can be quite funny, said Ms. Frazier. "She had a wild personality. She had a

great sense of humor at times."

Gerry is also a skilled writer, an important ability for TPO's, who prepare reports on parole-eligible inmates for Board members. "One of her strengths was that she wrote excellent summaries," said Ms. Frazier. "That was her strength; very thorough, very informative summaries. Board members always commented on them."

In particular, Parole Board member Deborah McDonagh said she has always been impressed with Gerry's work.



Gerry Lockhart retired last month from the Middlesex County House of Correction where she worked as a Transitional Parole Officer for 20 years.

Expanded Victim Services Unit serves as resource for Parole Officers *(continued from pg. 1)*



Massachusetts Parole Board Victim Services Unit gathered at the Region 5 Parole Office in Springfield in February. (*back row, from left*) Victim Services Coordinators Lisa Armstrong, Stacey Pignataro, Christine Munn, and Assistant Director of Victim Services Janice Dean. (*front row, from left*) Dena Coffey, Kimm Yonika, Jen MacDonald, Linsley Aceto, and Director of Victim Services Thomas Clark.) *Not pictured are Karen Kelly, Chris Daly, and Erin Farrell.*

The other eight coordinators have been stationed at each of the eight regional parole offices since April, 2005, as part of the agency's Regional Reentry Center Initiative.

The majority of the victim coor-

dinators have worked as victim witness advocates in District Attorney's offices or in police departments.

Victim Service Coordinators are not referred to as counselors because in general they pro-

vide referrals to counseling, not direct counseling to victims. And because their role is to inform victims and their families about the parole process and provide impartial support and assistance, they are not referred to as advocates.

"The goal is for us to be a resource to the field parole officers," said Director of Victim Services Thomas Clark. In cases of domestic violence and sexual assault in particular, Victim Service Coordinators can assist parole officers in linking victims to counseling and treatment.

This move out into the field has benefited both victims and victim coordinators, said Lisa Armstrong, the Victim Service Coordinator assigned to the Region 2 Parole Office in Mattapan. "Working directly in the community has made us a lot more accessible to victims of crime, as opposed to when we were located in Medfield, and victims expressed interest in coming to the office, however did not have the means to get there," she

"Additionally, when I call clients, they often remark that the number on their caller ID is a Mattapan number, and they feel a sense of connection, knowing that I am in their neighborhood, thus creating a strong and empathetic working relationship," she said.

The unit's expansion has also helped ease the workload of the parole staff in institutions, who are responsible for notifying certified victims of upcoming parole eligibility dates for the more than 10,000 parole hearings conducted by Parole Board members each year. Institutional staff now have more time to prepare reports on inmates in advance of parole hearings.

In October, transitional parole staff at four correctional facilities will begin shifting responsibilities to victim services unit staff in a pilot initiative.

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photograph by Stephanie Coughlin

The Massachusetts Parole Board this month cosponsored a job fair for ex-offenders with the United States Probation Office, the Work Place career center, and several nonprofit, community-based organizations. Held at the Hyatt Hotel in Downtown Crossing, the job fair drew about 200 ex-offenders, armed with resumes and the desire to work. Nearly 15 employers set up tables to present information about their company and collect resumes.

**Former Philadelphia Mayor Spearheads Mentoring Program for Children of Offenders
Wins \$100,000 Achievement Award**

W. Wilson Goode was one of five winners of the first \$100,000 "Purpose Prize" for innovators over age 60 honored for their pioneering solutions to social challenges in areas such as housing, healthcare, and prisoner reentry.

The five winners were selected on September 5 from a group of 15 finalists by the San Francisco-based non-profit organization, Civic Ventures, which funded the prizes in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies and the John Templeton Foundation. The 'purpose' of the prize is to highlight and support the continued achievements of older adults who serve as models for "engaged retirement."

Mr. Goode, who was the mayor of Philadelphia from 1984-1992, was awarded the Purpose Prize for his tireless dedication to the nonprofit organization, Amachi, a national mentoring program for children of inmates and parolees. The program recruits mentors from communities of faith to spend time with the children of offenders, from age four to 19.

"The number one pressing problem [among children] is having a parent in jail," said Mr. Goode. "There are 7.3 million children with a parent in jail or under supervision. If we do nothing, 70 percent of those children will end up in jail themselves," he said.

Mr. Goode's passion for the issue was in part driven by personal experience: when he was 14, his father was sent to prison for assaulting his mother. He earned his Ph.D. in ministry from the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary eight years after finishing his second term as mayor. Shortly after receiving his doctorate, he assumed leadership of Amachi, and began an intense campaign to network with pastors in mostly African-American communities of Philadelphia, asking them to recruit mentors from their congregations.

Following the Amachi model, nonprofit organizations throughout the country have recruited hundreds of mentors, at least half of them from synagogues, mosques, and churches. At the same time, departments of correction, probation, and parole

officials are helping to identify the children in need of mentoring.

"We partner with parole to refer us to children who have parents in prison or out on parole," said Mr. Goode. Unlike other family-oriented initiatives, the focus on Amachi is really on the children, although it is always necessary to work with the child's caregiver in some capacity, usually the grandmother.

Mr. Goode said that Amachi will use the prize money to continue its efforts to establish dedicated funding for the children of offenders in every state. His goal is for every state to establish a dedicated fund for which nonprofit organizations could apply to support programs for the children of offenders. For the next three years, Mr. Goode plans to meet with the government officials of each state in an effort to persuade them to support the fund.



W. Wilson Goode, former mayor of Philadelphia and recipient of the \$100,000 Purpose Prize directs a national mentoring program for the children of ex-offenders.